

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below. In accordance with the PTO's revised amendment format, a detailed listing of all claims has been provided. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

By way of overview, claims 1-38 are currently pending. Of these pending claims:

- a) Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 24 and 25 remain in their original form;
- b) Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-18 and 20-23 are currently amended; and
- c) Claims 26-38 are newly added.

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
 automatically selecting a candidate program to record;  
storing information about the candidate program in a first part of a time-dependent  
buffer arrangement, to provide candidate information;  
 recording ~~content~~ program information associated with the selected candidate  
 program, to provide recorded program information; and  
storing the recorded program information in a second part of the time-dependent  
buffer arrangement, wherein the candidate information and the recorded program  
information define program-related information;  
wherein the program-related information advances through the time-dependent  
buffer arrangement in the manner of a shift register, from the first part to the second part  
of the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

1 ~~selectively identifying the recorded content within a time-dependent buffer~~  
2 ~~arrangement.~~

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5 *R2*  
6 *Con* 2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the  
7 automatically selecting of the candidate program further includes:

8 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection  
9 criteria to identify the candidate program; ~~and~~

10 ~~identifying the selected candidate program within the time-dependent buffer~~  
11 ~~arrangement.~~

12 3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:  
13 maintaining definable user selection criteria for each one of a plurality of users.

14 4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:  
15 monitoring user activities associated with the recorded ~~content~~ program  
16 information; and  
17 modifying the definable user selection criteria based on the monitored user  
18 activities.

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20 5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:  
21 recording a plurality of the recorded ~~content~~ program information corresponding  
22 to respective candidate programs within the time-dependent buffer arrangement, wherein  
23 the plurality of the recorded ~~content~~ program information is in an initial time-ordered  
24 sequence; and  
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1 selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence of the plurality of the  
2 recorded ~~content~~ program information to produce a modified time-ordered sequence  
3 within the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

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5 *Al*  
6 6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the initial  
7 time-ordered sequence is automatically rearranged based on a comparison of the ~~content~~  
8 recorded program information with at least a portion of the definable user selection  
9 criteria.

10 7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the initial time-ordered  
11 sequence is manually rearranged based on user inputs.

12  
13 8. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
14 selectively ~~identifying~~ storing the recorded ~~content~~ program information within  
15 the time-dependent buffer arrangement ~~with~~ in a permanent storage buffer arrangement.

16  
17 9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-  
18 executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

19 automatically selecting a candidate program to record;  
20 storing information about the candidate program in a first part of a time-  
21 dependent buffer arrangement, to provide candidate information;

22 recording ~~content~~ program information associated with the selected candidate  
23 program, to provide recorded program information; and  
24  
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1 storing the recorded program information in a second part of the time-dependent  
 2 buffer arrangement, wherein the candidate information and the recorded program  
 3 information define program-related information;

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4 wherein the program-related information advances through the time-dependent  
 5 buffer arrangement in the manner of a shift register, from the first part to the second part  
 6 of the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

7 ~~selectively identifying the recorded content within a time dependent buffer~~  
 8 ~~arrangement.~~

9  
 10 10. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9,  
 11 wherein the automatically selecting of the candidate program further includes:

12 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection  
 13 criteria to identify the candidate program; ~~and~~

14 ~~identifying the selected candidate program within the time dependent buffer~~  
 15 ~~arrangement.~~

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 17 11. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, further  
 18 comprising computer-executable instructions for:

19 maintaining definable user selection criteria for each one of a plurality of users.

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 21 12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10,  
 22 further comprising computer-executable instructions for:

23 monitoring user activities associated with the recorded ~~content~~ program  
 24 information; and

1 modifying the definable user selection criteria based on the monitored user  
2 activities.

3  
4 13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10,  
5 further comprising computer-executable instructions for:

6 recording a plurality of the recorded ~~content~~ program information corresponding  
7 to respective candidate programs within the time-dependent buffer arrangement, wherein  
8 the plurality of the recorded ~~content~~ program information is in an initial time-ordered  
9 sequence; and

10 selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence of the plurality of the  
11 recorded ~~content~~ program information to produce a modified time-ordered sequence  
12 within the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

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14 14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13,  
15 wherein the initial time-ordered sequence is automatically rearranged based on a  
16 comparison of the ~~content~~ recorded program information with at least a portion of the  
17 definable user selection criteria.

18  
19 15. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the  
20 initial time-ordered sequence is manually rearranged based on user inputs.

21  
22 16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9,  
23 further comprising computer-executable instructions for:  
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1 selectively ~~identifying~~ storing the recorded ~~content~~ program information within  
 2 the time-dependent buffer arrangement ~~with~~ in a permanent storage buffer arrangement.

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 5 17. (Currently Amended) An arrangement comprising:

6 an intelligent content agent configured to automatically select a candidate  
 7 program to record;

8 a time-dependent content buffer mechanism operatively coupled to the intelligent  
 9 content agent and configurable to:

10 receive and store information about the candidate program in a first part of  
 11 the time-dependent buffer mechanism, to provide candidate information; and

12 receive and ~~record~~ store a ~~signal-carrying~~ content program information  
 13 associated with the selected candidate program in a second part of the time-  
 14 dependent buffer mechanism, wherein the candidate information and the recorded  
 15 program information define program-related information,

16 wherein the arrangement is configured to advance the program-related  
 17 information through the time-dependent buffer in the manner of a shift register, from the  
 18 first part to the second part of the time-dependent buffer mechanism.

19 18. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, wherein the  
 20 intelligent content agent is further configured to scan an electronic program guide (EPG)  
 21 based on definable user selection criteria to identify the candidate program, ~~and identify~~  
 22 ~~the selected candidate program within the time-dependent buffer arrangement~~  
 23 mechanism.

1 19. (Original) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the intelligent  
2 content agent is further configured to maintain definable user selection criteria for each  
3 one of a plurality of users.

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5 20. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, further  
6 comprising a bubbling agent operatively associated with the intelligent content agent and  
7 the time-dependent content buffer mechanism, and configured to monitor user activities  
8 associated with the recorded ~~content~~ program information, and modify the definable user  
9 selection criteria based on the monitored user activities.

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11 21. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the  
12 time-dependent content buffer mechanism is further configured to:

13 record, in an initial time-ordered sequence, a plurality of ~~signals-carrying-content~~  
14 recorded program information associated with a plurality of selected candidate programs;  
15 and

16 respond to user input by selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence  
17 to produce a modified time-ordered sequence.

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19 22. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the  
20 time-dependent content buffer mechanism is further configured to:

21 record, in an initial time-ordered sequence, a plurality of ~~signals-carrying-content~~  
22 recorded program information associated with a plurality of selected candidate programs;  
23 and

1 wherein, the intelligent content agent is further configured to automatically  
2 rearrange the initial time-ordered sequence based on a comparison of the ~~content~~  
3 recorded program information with at least a portion of the definable user selection  
4 criteria to produce a modified time-ordered sequence.

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23. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, further  
7 comprising a permanent storage buffer ~~arrangement~~ mechanism operatively associated  
8 with the time-dependent content buffer mechanism, and wherein the time-dependent  
9 content buffer mechanism is further configured to selectively move the recorded content  
10 within the time-dependent buffer ~~arrangement~~ mechanism to the permanent storage  
11 buffer ~~arrangement~~ mechanism.

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13 24. (Original) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17 wherein the intelligent  
14 content agent is further configured to examine closed caption data during recording of the  
15 candidate program to determine if the candidate program significantly matches a specific  
16 user criteria.

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18 25. (Original) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17 wherein the time-dependent  
19 content buffer mechanism is further configured to automatically provide a selectively  
20 arranged sequence of recorded candidate programs.

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22 26. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
23 playing the candidate program in the second part of the time-dependent buffer  
24 arrangement, to provide previously played program information; and  
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1 storing the previously played program information in a third part of the time-  
2 dependent buffer arrangement.

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4 27. (New) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the user activities pertain to  
5 a rate at which a user consumes program information stored in the time-dependent buffer  
6 arrangement.  
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8 28. (New) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the modified time-ordered  
9 sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving at least some recorded  
10 program information in front of other recorded program information.

11  
12 29. (New) A method comprising:  
13 automatically selecting a candidate program to record by scanning an electronic  
14 program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection criteria to identify the candidate  
15 program;

16 recording program information associated with the selected candidate program, to  
17 provide recorded program information; and

18 storing the recorded program information in a time-dependent buffer arrangement,  
19 wherein the user selection criteria is based on a rate at which a user consumes  
20 recorded program information stored in the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

21  
22 30. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9, further  
23 comprising computer-executable instructions for:  
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1 playing the candidate program in the second part of the time-dependent buffer  
2 arrangement, to provide previously played program information; and

3 storing the previously played program information in a third part of the time-  
4 dependent buffer arrangement.

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7 31. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 12, wherein the  
8 user activities pertain to a rate at which a user consumes program information stored in  
9 the time-dependent buffer arrangement.

10 32. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the  
11 modified time-ordered sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving  
12 at least some recorded program information in front of other recorded program  
13 information.

14  
15 33. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions  
16 for performing steps comprising:

17 automatically selecting a candidate program to record by scanning an electronic  
18 program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection criteria to identify the candidate  
19 program;

20 recording program information associated with the selected candidate program, to  
21 provide recorded program information; and

22 storing the recorded program information in a time-dependent buffer arrangement,  
23 wherein the user selection criteria is based on a rate at which a user consumes  
24 recorded program information stored in the time-dependent buffer arrangement.  
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2 34. (New) The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, wherein the arrangement is  
3 configured to play the candidate program in the second part of the time-dependent buffer  
4 mechanism, to provide previously played program information, and the time-dependent  
5 buffer mechanism is further configured to store the previously played program  
6 information in a third part of the time-dependent buffer mechanism.

7  
8 35. (New) The arrangement as recited in Claim 20, wherein the user activities  
9 pertain to a rate at which a user consumes program information stored in the time-  
10 dependent buffer mechanism.

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12 36. (New) The arrangement as recited Claim 21, wherein the modified time-  
13 ordered sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving at least some  
14 recorded program information in front of other recorded program information.

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16 37. (New) The arrangement as recited Claim 22, wherein the modified time-  
17 ordered sequence differs from the initial time-ordered sequence by moving at least some  
18 recorded program information in front of other recorded program information.

19  
20 38. (New) An arrangement comprising:  
21 an agent configured to automatically select a candidate program to record by  
22 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user selection criteria to  
23 identify the candidate program; and  
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1 a time-dependent content buffer mechanism operatively coupled to the agent and  
2 configurable to receive and store program information associated with the selected  
3 candidate program, to provide recorded program information,

4 wherein the user selection criteria is based on a rate at which a user consumes  
5 program information stored in the time-dependent buffer mechanism.

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